



PROPANE BUS FLEET

CASE STUDY

SPLENDORA ISD

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BACKGROUND FACTS

72 square miles, 3,400 students
Transports 2,059 student passengers daily
Annual school-bus mileage – 380,844 miles
Past 9 months' usage of propane – 12,449 gallons

FLEET FACTS

Total school buses: 48
○ 5 propane
○ 42 diesel
○ 1 gasoline

Total Other Vehicles 33
○ 1 propane forklift
○ 4 diesel
○ 28 gasoline

Refueling facilities: Yes
Gallons on-site propane storage: 2,000 gallons through Railroad Commission grant
Years using propane: 1 year

PROPANE COST SAVINGS

To date, we have not applied for the federal motor fuel tax credits. We pay \$2.16 per gallon for propane and \$3.40 per gallon for diesel. The new buses average 3.4 mpg, compared to the diesel buses at 8.2 mpg.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/QUOTES

Reed states, "We expected poorer mileage when we decided to go with the propane school buses. If they could get the mileage up, propane would be a total no-brainer. With the economy like it is, the grants are critical to offsetting the incremental cost. The propane school buses are easier to work on and to get parts. I can go to the local auto parts store with the exception of the air compressor belt which is an odd size. We have had some issues with our pump, but CleanFUEL USA has helped us out. In fact, one issue turned out to be the build up of moisture--the electrician failed to use a weather type seal. We like the simplicity of the propane school bus. Blue Bird designed it like a mechanic would have designed it. Plus, the maintenance increases with the diesel school buses have soured me, and they have become very expensive to operate."

Revised 5/11